

Jean Baptiste Plauché to Andrew Jackson, June 2, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>J. B. PLAUCHÉ TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, June 2, 1844.

. . . . I sincerely regret the position which Mr. Van Buren has thought proper to take in his letter on the annexation of Texas to the United States. It is calculated, in my opinion, to inflict serious injury upon the prospect of his election, to render him unpopular, and make him loose the votes of the Southern States, and even those of some others. I am sorry to differ from him on this question, which, in my view, is a vital one to the South, and more particularly to my native state. For I consider the present moment opportune, and if we do not seize upon Texas, it is lost to us for ever. It seems to me impolitic for our government not to embrace with eagerness so favorable an occasion to extend our frontiers. A great majority of the people of Texas are citizens of the United States, who have the same manners and the same opinions that we have. They have the right, as an independent nation to choose whatever form of government they may think most suitable to their happiness; they have a right also, to ask to be admitted into our great family. To refuse them under these circumstances, would be an act of folly on our part, and a great political error. Should it unfortunately happen that our government rejected them, they would find it necessary to place themselves under the protection of another person. If, for example, Great Britain should place her hands upon Texas, her next step would be to take possession of Cuba, and then it would be too late for us to remedy the evils which that power, with her avowed System of abolition, would inflict upon us. That System, according to her own boast, embraces the whole Globe, and is maintained for the advancement of her own particular interests. There can be no doubt, that she will employ all her efforts to

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Dismember our Union. For those reasons, looking to our posterity, and our own existence, there cannot be any doubt that our government, without Delay, ought to annex Texas to the United States. 1

1 This letter is interesting because it shows how a typical business man living in the South looked on the annexation of Texas.